

JUL 31 1918

WHAT COUNTS.

It is evident that the Germans are out of the Marne trap. By the simple tactics of massing great numbers of reserves against the sides of the salient, the General Staff provided a lane through which the Crown Prince's army could retire to new positions in reasonably good order, and brilliantly covered the retreat.

The best measure, however, of the strength of the blow that Foch has dealt is to be found in the reports of the General Staff and in the explanations of the German press. The General Staff has always been frankness itself in acknowledging minor defeats and in assessing them at their full value. That it should have adopted a policy of wholesale concealment and mendacity at this time is proof that Foch's counter-offensive was a staggering as it was unexpected.

A characteristic comment on the German reverses is that of the Cologne Volkszeitung, which says: "What on earth matters it if we have to sacrifice some territory? Our motto is to weaken the enemy." This is all true enough, and it applies to the Allies as well as to the Germans, but that was not the view which the German press took of four successive German offensives beginning with that of March 21. Then every mile of territory that was taken brought the German armies so much nearer Paris or the Channel ports, and was another harbinger of victory.

Yet it is true, nevertheless, that territory in itself counts for little. The great success of the German Armies lay in the damage that was inflicted upon the British and French Armies. Up to July 1 the German General Staff claimed to have taken 191,454 unwounded prisoners, 2,476 field guns and 15,024 machine guns, aside from the vast stores of ammunition, food and supplies that fell into German hands. Of these prisoners, 94,939 were English and 89,099 French, the remainder being divided, according to the Berlin Tageszeitung, among the Portuguese, Belgians and Americans.

Assuming the substantial accuracy of these figures, they represent a German success that cannot be repeated. Since the Ludendorff-Hindenburg offensive began on March 21, the United States alone has sent nearly 1,000,000 troops to France, and these troops have demonstrated their worth as soldiers in a manner no less convincing than dramatic. They will continue to pour into France at the rate of 250,000 or more a month as long as troops are needed.

Returning from a visit to France, a correspondent of the Amsterdam Handelsblat records that "from America issues a force against which no European nation can stand. It is a gigantic force, which is developing calmly and scientifically." What is equally important, it is a force which will be cumulative.

We may be sure that the German General Staff has no illusions as to what has happened during the last two weeks. As it has found in Foch a great soldier who measured up to his responsibilities and wrested the initiative from the advancing Germans. It has found in the despised Americans soldiers who can meet the elite troops of the German Armies on equal terms. It has found that the whole military situation so far as morale is concerned has been changed overnight.

These are the things that count, and these are the standards by which Foch's great achievement is to be measured.

N. Y. STAATS ZEITUNG

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Gener deutsche Führer Hauptmann von Beerfeldt liegt nur die notwendigen Konzepte, kann er in einem den Mitgliedern des Reichstags übergebenen Memorandum erläutern, daß die Leiter der deutschen Regierung im Jahre 1914 unter Auflage gestellt werden sollten, da sie das deutsche Volk belogen und betrogen haben. Der Bericht der Verfassung des ehemaligen Reichstagspräsidenten v. Bethmann-Hollweg und fast der ganze Rest der deutschen Regierungsgeschichte wegen seiner Pflichtverletzung den Reichstag gegenüber, falls er sich nicht zu rechtem Handeln entschließen sollte.

In seinem Interview mit dem Vertreter einer Berliner Zeitung muß der Chef des deutschen Admiralstabs eingestehen, daß man sich in Berlin wieder sehr stark verrecknet hat, als man annahm, daß es mit Hilfe des unbefruchteten Hauptstabskriegs möglich sein würde, Amerikas tätige Mitwirkung am Weltkrieg vollständig einzufachern. Wenn nicht zu gut wie unmöglich zu machen. Zufällig haben die deutschen Wankhüter gerade das Gegenteil erreicht. Anstatt die amerikanischen Truppentransporte zu verzögern, oder sie gar aufzuhalten, wurden sie verdoppelt und verdreifacht. Das ist Amerikas Antwort auf die leichtfertige Herausforderung, und dabei kann man sich mit einem feinen berüchtigten ehemaligen Streiter zur See sagen: "Wir haben zu kämpfen erst begonnen!"

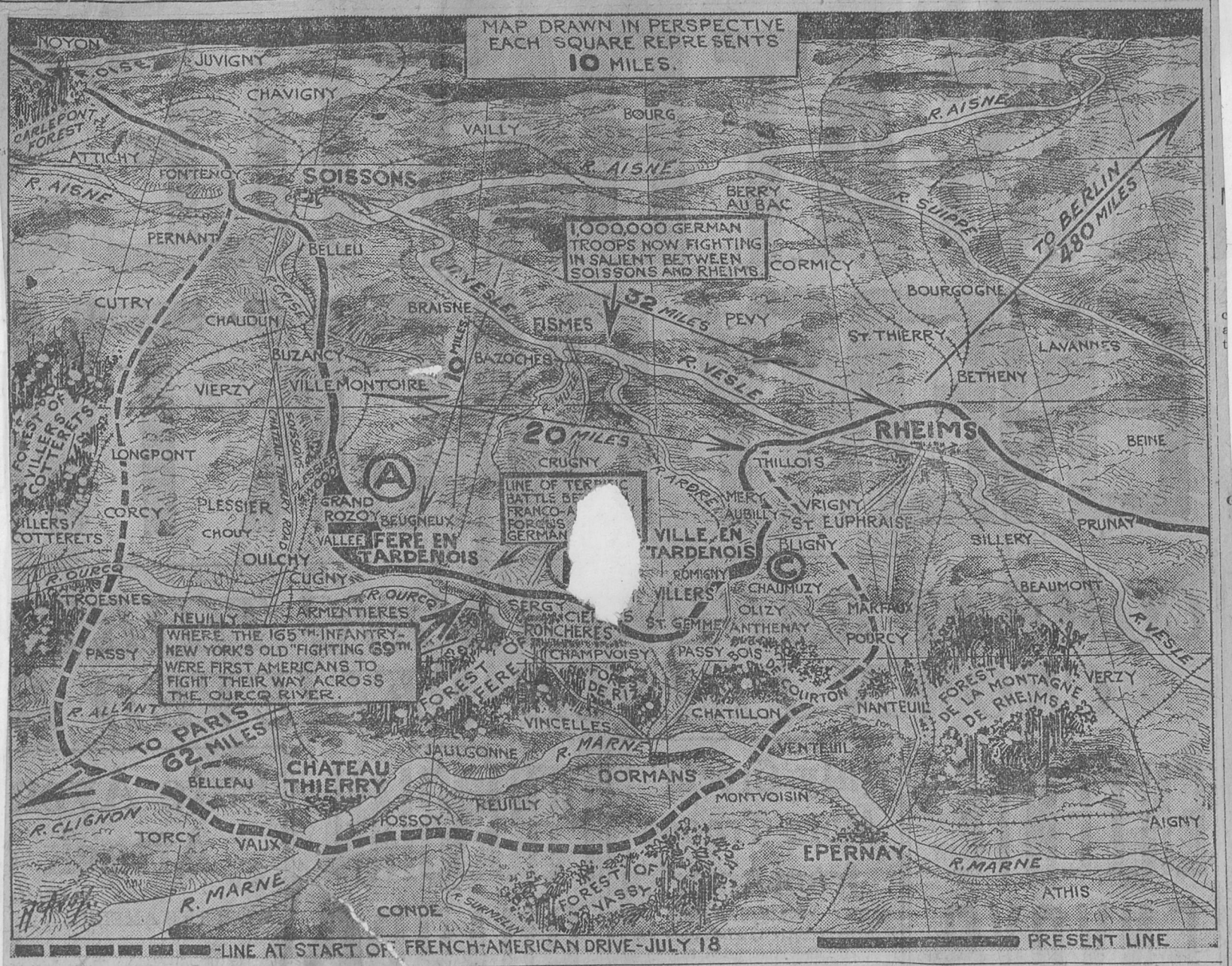
Allies Gain in Fierce Battle Raging on 30-Mile Front

FRENCH troops are reported to have re-taken Beugneux (A) after having won and lost it. Beugneux is a mile and a quarter from Grand Rozoy, the highwater mark of yesterday's advance.

Crack Bavarian and Prussian divisions were hurled against the Americans along the line Fere-Sergy-Cierges (B). The Americans beat off all attacks and held their gains of the previous day. The battle along

this five-mile front continued for twenty-four hours without cessation. Romigny (C), on the Dormans-Rheims road, is reported to have fallen to the French. This town, just below Ville-en-Tardenois, menaces the German hold on that base.

Violent enemy attacks from both sides of St. Euphrasie (southwest of Rheims) broke down before the allied defense.



Ludendorff's Next Move

By Fra
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THREE times in four years the German Association (New York Tribune) served an equality of standard with respect to all their divisions. Again, if Rupprecht of Bavaria returns to the attack against Haig he must attack out of one of two salients, each resembling the Marne salient, which has proven so disastrous for the Germans. If he attempts to push in the wedge south of Ypres, he must present two flanks to the foe and risk a counter thrust like that which won the recent Marne battle, either from Bethune or from Ypres. If he strikes for Amiens, he leaves Foch an opening flank, either between Albert and Arras or between Montdidier and the Oise.

If the German thrust fails, as the Marne thrust failed, the counter attack is bound to come, for Foch will never go back to the completely defensive strategy, and such a thrust would involve a retreat to the old Hindenburg line, or else a fatal retreat in Flanders. If Foch has, as yet, no decisive or considerable superiority in numbers, he has at least an unquestioned equality and can afford a counter offensive whenever the German original thrust fails.

As it stands, Foch can afford to let the Germans make the first move, and, for moral if not for military reasons, they can hardly refrain from making this move. But it has become excessively risky for them to undertake a new offensive, which would eat up the last reserve divisions of shock troops and insure a counter thrust if it failed, a counter thrust bound to be exceedingly dangerous, as the Marne experience has just demonstrated.

As the Germans have been indulging in. Should he undertake this and fail, the Germans would be able to pass to the offensive again with far better chances of success than they now have. As far as one can see, the waiting game, with certain clear modifications, remains the best game for the Allied commander in chief. His numbers are growing, he has mastered the new German method of attack, he has pulled down both the strength and the confidence of his foes enormously, and he is in a position to profit instantly by any miscalculation of theirs.

If the Germans try a new offensive and fail, then may come the moment for the general offensive of the Allies. This will depend upon the extent of the German failure and the effect of the defeat upon the morale of their army. But, all things considered, Foch seems unlikely to attempt a Ludendorffian stroke now. On the other hand, he can and may multiply his local operations and worry and disconcert German commanders by relatively minor operations at various points. He is sure to do this if he does not desire the Germans to deliver another great blow. But for many reasons he may desire that such a blow be delivered.

Ludendorff is not likely again to possess the initiative, as he did from March 21 to July 15. The conditions have entirely changed and Foch is in a far different situation, having the power to deal blow for blow with Ludendorff, meet offensive with counter offensive and wait or strike as he may choose, instead of waiting to be struck, as he has had to do hitherto for many months. Ludendorff may have to strike, whether he is in a condition to bring off a great success or not, because of political reasons, but when political begins to interfere with military reasons disasters come thick and fast, as the French experience in the last war with Germany demonstrated.

Public attention continues to be fixed upon the fighting in what is left of the Marne salient, but in the larger sense this phase is already completed. The Germans have got away and are going presently to stand at the line they have been preparing, probably at the Meuse, possibly at the Aisne. At either place their positions will be too strong

N. Y. EVENING POST

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ECONOMIC AID FOR RUSSIA

Personnel of Commission Being Considered—Use of Czechoslovakians as a Guard Force.

(Special Dispatch to The Evening Post.)
WASHINGTON, July 31. (By A. P.)—Consideration of the personnel of the American Commission to go to Russia is being hastened. If the type of men now under consideration is appointed, the Commission will be composed in part, at least, of men accustomed to dealing with economic problems not only in a national but an international way.

It is still assumed here in all interested quarters that, if an economic invasion of Russia is agreed upon, a sufficient convoy of troops to protect the supplies which will be sent to Russia will not meet with serious objections from the authorities in Russia. With that point in mind, consideration is now being given to the use of the Czechoslovak troops in Russia in the capacity of a guard for these supplies. It is recognized that at present there is actual hostility in some parts of Russia between the Czechoslovaks and the Red Guards, who claim allegiance to the Bolshevik Government. It was the original intention that the Czechoslovaks, who were equipped by the Soviet Government, at the request of France for service on the eastern front, should proceed to France as quickly as possible. The difficulties with the Red Guards are believed to be the result of comparatively trivial misunderstanding which might have been obviated by mediation, and it is suggested that this form of mediation may yet result in restoring better relations which would permit the use of the Czechoslovak troops in the economic assistance programme now contemplated by the Allies.

While the actual steps to be taken by the Government for the assistance of Russia have not yet progressed to the point where a definite announcement can be made, there are indications that the answer will not be long in forthcoming. Both England and France are reliably reported to have taken a more friendly view within the last few days toward the tentative policy of this Government with respect to Russia, and there is less indication of friction among the interested Governments than at any time in the recent past.

A. Y.